

Coding Qualitative Data

Sociology

How transcripts become an argument you can show your working for.

Codes are built from the data, then disciplined against it.

1

Read without coding

Whole transcripts first, to hear the case before fragmenting it.

2

Open coding

Label segments closely, in the participants' own words where possible.

3

Group into categories

Collapse overlapping codes; keep a written definition of each.

4

Look for negative cases

Hunt the material that does not fit, and change the account for it.

5

Check agreement

A second coder on a subset shows whether the codes are usable at all.

6

Write to the evidence

Each claim carries the extract that supports it, with its context.

Saturation, the point where new data adds no new codes, is a judgement. Say how you reached it rather than asserting it.